

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend/replace claims 1, 2, 6-13, 27-30 and 32 as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A cap for a filter, comprising:
an interior filter-contacting surface adapted to frictionally engage an outer surface of the filter; and
an exterior gripping surface, opposed to the interior filter-contacting surface, the exterior gripping surface having an average surface roughness defined by a plurality of peaks and a plurality of valleys, wherein the distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges from~~ranging between~~ about 0.025 millimeters (0.00098 inches) to about 4.57 millimeters (0.18 inches) ~~(peak to valley)~~, wherein the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys define a plurality of openings in the exterior gripping surface.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the filter is a spin-on filter having a gasket-receiving end region and an end region distal to the gasket-receiving end region, and
wherein the cap is a tubular member adapted for use on the spin-on filter.

Claim 3. (original) The cap as defined in claim 2 wherein the interior filter-contacting surface aligns over at least a portion of the distal end region.

Claim 4. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the filter is a spin-on filter having a gasket-receiving end region and an end region distal to the gasket-receiving end region, and
wherein the cap is adapted to be disposed on the filter outer surface at an area intermediate the gasket-receiving end region and the distal end region.

Claim 5. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the cap is pre-formed.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ~~average surface roughness (peak to valley)~~ ranges between about 0.51 millimeters (0.02 inches) and about 4.57 millimeters (0.18 inches).

Claim 7. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~average surface roughness (peak to valley)~~ distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 0.76 millimeters (0.03 inches) and about 3.048 millimeters (0.12 inches).

Claim 8. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~average surface roughness (peak to valley)~~ distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 1.016 millimeters (0.04 inches) and about 2.29 millimeters (0.09 inches).

Claim 9. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~average surface roughness (peak to valley)~~ distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 0.025 millimeters (0.00098 inches) and about 1.14 millimeters (0.045 inches).

Claim 10. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~average surface roughness (peak to valley)~~ distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 0.13 millimeters (0.005 inches) and about 0.76 millimeters (0.03 inches).

Claim 11. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~average surface~~

~~roughness (peak to valley)~~distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 0.25 millimeters (0.01 inches) and about 0.38 millimeters (0.015 inches).

Claim 12. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~average surface roughness (peak to valley)~~distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys is about 1.52 millimeters (0.06 inches).

Claim 13. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of peaks is generally a spline-shaped member; and wherein the number of the plurality of peaks ranges between about 2 and about 96.

Claim 14. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the cap is formed from a polymeric material.

Claim 15. (original) The cap as defined in claim 14 wherein the polymeric material is a thermoplastic material.

Claim 16. (original) The cap as defined in claim 15 wherein the polymeric material is polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Claim 17. (original) The cap as defined in claim 14 wherein the cap is formed from a thermoset material.

Claim 18. (original) The cap as defined in claim 17 wherein the thermoset material is a rubber material.

Claim 19. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the cap is adapted for single-use.

Claim 20. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the cap is adapted to be reusable.

Claim 21. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the exterior gripping surface aids in tactile control of the filter during insertion and removal of the filter in an automotive internal combustion engine.

Claim 22. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the filter is adapted to be manually inserted or removed in an engine.

Claim 23. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the filter is adapted to be automatically inserted or removed in an engine.

Claim 24. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1, further comprising an orientation portion adapted to aid in filter orientation with respect to the engine during at least one of insertion and removal of the filter.

Claim 25. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the interior filter-contacting surface is adapted to be substantially bonded to the outer surface of the filter.

Claim 26. (original) The cap as defined in claim 1 wherein the cap is adapted to be removable from the outer surface of the filter.

Claim 27. (currently amended) A cap for a spin-on filter having a gasket-receiving end region and an end region distal to the gasket-receiving end region, the cap comprising:
an interior, filter-contacting surface, wherein the filter-contacting surface is adapted to be received over at least a portion of, and to frictionally engage an outer surface of the distal end region of the filter; and

an exterior gripping surface, opposed to the interior filter-contacting surface, the gripping surface having an average surface roughness defined by a plurality of peaks and a plurality of valleys, wherein the distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges from about 0.025 millimeters (0.00098 inches) to about 4.57 millimeters (0.18 inches) ~~(peak-to-valley)~~, wherein the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys define a plurality of openings in the exterior gripping surface; and

wherein the cap is formed from a polymeric material, and wherein the exterior gripping surface aids in tactile control of the filter during at least one of installation and removal of the filter in an automotive internal combustion engine.

Claim 28. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 27 wherein the average surface roughness ~~(peak-to-valley)~~ distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 0.76 millimeters (0.03 inches) and about 3.048 millimeters (0.12 inches) and the cap is a tubular member.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 27 wherein the average surface roughness ~~(peak-to-valley)~~ distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges between about 0.13 millimeters (0.005 inches) and about 0.76 millimeters (0.03 inches).

Claim 30. (currently amended) The cap as defined in claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of peaks is generally a spline-shaped member, and wherein the number of the plurality of peaks ranges between about 2 and about 96.

Claim 31. (original) The cap as defined in claim 27, further comprising an orientation portion adapted to aid in filter orientation with respect to the engine during at least one of insertion and removal of the filter.

Claim 32. (currently amended) A spin-on filter, comprising:

an outer surface; and

a cap, comprising:

an interior, filter-contacting surface adapted to frictionally engage the outer surface of the filter; and

an exterior gripping surface, opposed to the interior filter-contacting surface, the gripping surface having an average surface roughness defined by a plurality of peaks and a plurality of valleys, wherein the distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges from~~ranging between~~ about 0.025 millimeters (0.00098 inches) and about 4.57 millimeters (0.18 inches)~~(peak to valley)~~, wherein the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys define a plurality of openings in the exterior gripping surface.